

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 /058 W

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O R 231138Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3775

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DOD WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: THAI REQUEST THAT RTG CONTRIBUTION TO JUSMAG BE
REDUCED

REF: A) STATE 224957, B) BANGKOK 23439, C) BANGKOK 24796

1. THE FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF JUSMAG PERSONNEL IS PROVIDED
AS REQUESTED:

A. BEFORE REDUCTION:

U.S. MILITARY 166

U.S. CIVILIAN 7

LOCAL NATIONAL 8

TOTAL 181

B. AFTER REDUCTION:

U.S. MILITARY 116

U.S. CIVILIAN 15

LOCAL NATIONAL 47

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TOTAL 178

A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN JUSMAGTHAI IS CONTEMPLATED FOR 1978. ANY STRONG RECOMMENDATION OF FUNDING AT PREVIOUS LEVELS SHOULD CONSIDER THIS PROBABLE REDUCTION.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT PAR 2, ARTICLE VIII OF THE 1950 AGREEMENT STATES THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE THAI CONTRIBUTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURES IN LOCAL CURRENCY WILL BE DETERMINED "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND TO PROVIDE SUCH CURRENCY.". IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE RTG (SPECIFICALLY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE), PROBABLY DUE TO BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES AND UNCERTAINTIES OCCASIONED BY NEW PROCEDURES REQUIRING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET, IS UNABLE TO MEET CURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR WHICH ENDS SEPTEMBER 30. THUS THE REASON FOR THE REQUEST TO US THAT THE REMAINING 6 MILLION BAHT PAYMENT DUE THIS FISCAL YEAR BE WAIVED. WE ALSO HAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE SOMEWHAT STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MOD AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD BE IMPROVED IF THE MFA IS ABLE TO OBTAIN OUR CONCURRENCE IN THIS WAIVER REQUEST. (THIS COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NEGOTIATION OF THE ALREEMENTS COVERING OUR RESIDUAL PRESENCE IN THAILAND.) IT IS RECOMMENDED, THEREFORE, THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO THE ORIGINAL MFA REQUEST IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

- A. THAT WE AGREE TO DEFER THE 6 MILLION BAHT PAYMENT DUE ON SEPTEMBER 30.
- B. THAT THIS DESERMENT EOES NOT CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THE PAYMENT IN LOCAL CURRENCY FOR THE PRESENT OR FUTURE YEARS.
- C. THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RTG IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VIII CONCERNING THE 6 MILLIT BAHT AS WELL AS THE MAGNITUDE OF FUTURE RTG CONTRIBUTIONS IN LOCAL CURRENCY FOR MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN LIGHT OF THE SIZE OF JUSMAG AND EAL COSTS INVOLVED.
- D. THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN AT THE WORKING LEVEL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT TF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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